

The McGill Daily

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QPIRG Renews Push for Green McGill

STUDENT GROUPS URGE SHAPIRO TO MAKE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

BY BEN ERRETT

The Québec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) at McGill is launching a campaign this week to try to pressure the university into adopting a coherent environmental policy.

QPIRG will be setting up information tables across campus in an effort to encourage students to sign a petition demanding that Principal Shapiro act to ensure that the university has a formal mandate to pursue environmentally friendly policies.

This public campaign is the culmination of a lengthy correspondence between the Principal's office and a coalition of student groups, including the SSMU and the Post Graduate Student's Society, as well as QPIRG. An environmental policy known as the McGill Green Plan was drawn up in 1996, but has never been implemented. In the same year, administrative restructuring resulted in the disappearance of the McGill Waste Management and Recycling Coordinating Group, an ad-hoc committee which had been responsible for reducing the generation of solid waste, as well as improving the recovery of materials used for recycling.

"To have an institution like McGill with no formal commitment to the environment is com-

pletely unacceptable," says Becky Lipton, coordinator of campus and community environmental action at QPIRG. "It looks like McGill is not concerned at all with the environment."

QPIRG's figures estimate that a fully-implemented recycling program at McGill could save the university \$200,958 a year.

In a reply to student leaders dated January 5, Principal Shapiro admits that he has "not followed up on this matter as I had to agreed to do." However, he rules out any immediate action, saying that "the reinstatement of the McGill Waste Management and Recycling Coordinating Group (WMRGC) would have to be assessed against other pressing priorities in a very different budget context."

Dr. James Nicell, Associate Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics and co-author of the Green Plan, says that the WMRGC essentially disappeared because of staff changes in the university administration.

"With the departure of [Associate Vice-Principal] Sam Kingdon, the committee lost its connection with the administration. We need to reestablish the committee, reconnect it to the administration, and expand the



mandate."

Dr. Nicell said that the WMRGC had previously been too centered on recycling, and the Green Plan would have allowed it to become more focused on a comprehensive strategy involving an overall reduction of waste.

Claude Lahaie, manager of the Waste Management Program and another co-author of the Green Plan, is glad to see that QPIRG is pushing the issue of an environmental policy, but says that the policy alone is not enough.

"The Green Plan without the WMRGC is only worth the paper it's printed on. Without the committee, the funds and the recognition, the Green Plan is worthless," Lahaie says.

Lahaie's enthusiasm for recycling was considerably more restrained than QPIRG's. He states that recycling alone "doesn't pay" and that at best the university will break even. However, he stresses that a well-implemented Green Plan could generate a slight profit when factors such as reduced

consumption, and more efficient heating are taken into account.

Lipton expressed her frustration at the indifference from the Principal's office, which has prompted QPIRG to launch its campaign.

"We've been told that if we had a money saving project, we could take it right to Shapiro. Well, it takes four months to get a hold of him and even then he refuses to make a commitment. It is very hard to get anything done at McGill concerning these ideas."

Promoting Private Education

GOVERNMENT POLL REVEALS CONCERN OVER CANADA'S LONG-HERALDED UNIVERSALITY

BY JON BRICKER

Canadians are concerned about accessibility to post-secondary education, said a recent poll sponsored by the federal government. And Liberal critics are wondering whether their pleas for action will be heeded when the new budget is introduced in the next month.

According to the Human Resources Development Canada report released last August, nearly 90% of Canadians consider high tuition to pose a major obstacle

to educational accessibility. 97% of those surveyed believed post-secondary accessibility to be important; 94% expressed a further belief in the importance of beginning savings for children's university early.

Many point fingers at the feds for skyrocketing inflation in tuition prices. In almost every region of the country, post-secondary tuition fees have experienced greater inflation rates than nearly all other goods or services.

"Canadian parents have lost confidence in the government's commitment to provide access to college or university, to obtain a fulfilling, rewarding education," said Elizabeth Carlyle, National Chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) who had just recently received the report.

The poll also highlighted concerns for many that tuition rates, in tandem with existing loan and assistance programs, hardly ben-

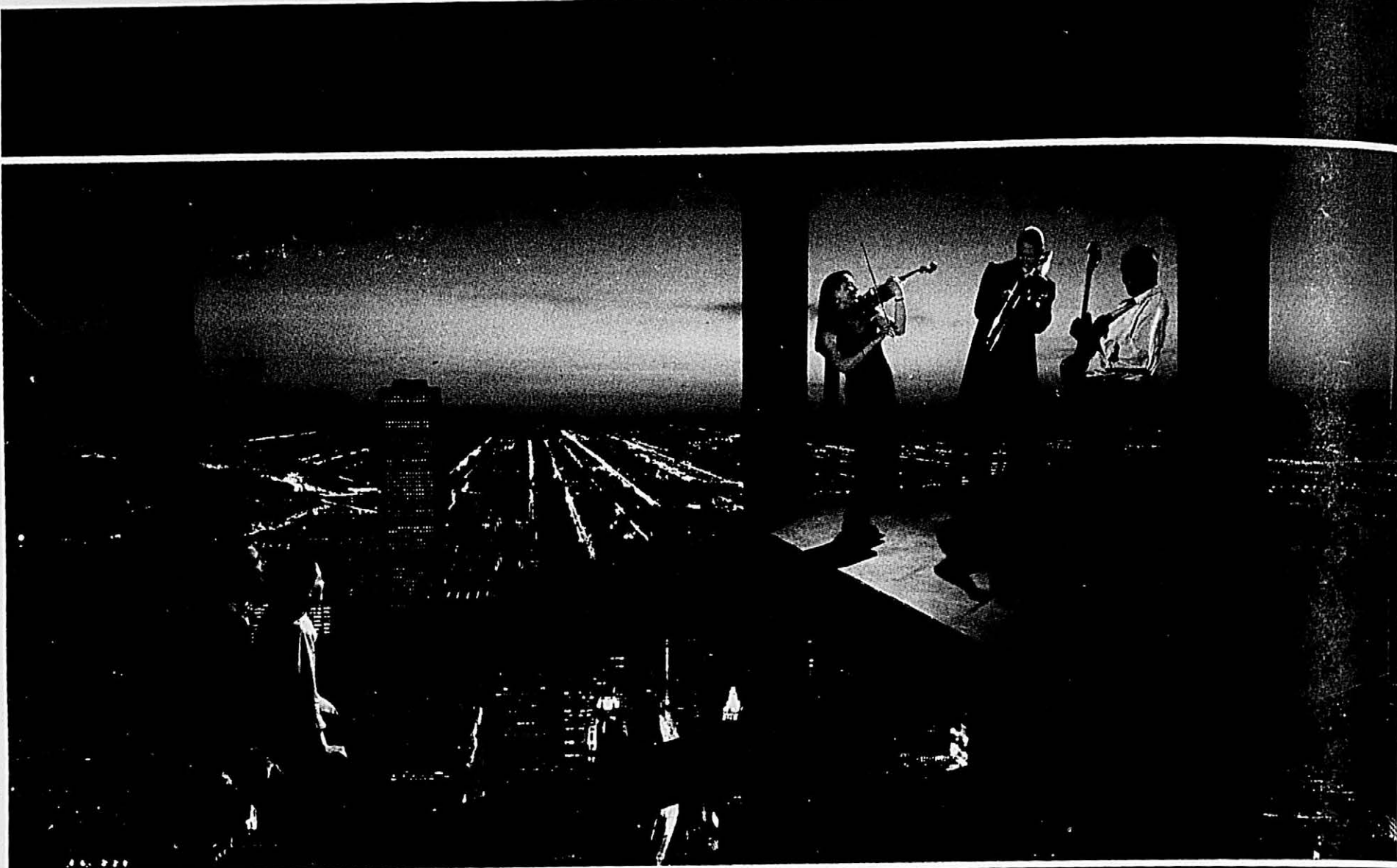
efit those in the most dire financial need. Forty percent of those surveyed considered parental support to be the best guarantee of a post-secondary education, and Carlyle is among many in wondering just how many students have this sort of assistance available to them.

Noting that existing assistance initiatives, such as the Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) and Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) on which the poll it-

self focused, do little for the majority of Canadians, Carlyle pointed out that "Universality has been severely eroded... It's mostly high-income Canadians that can afford to put money into RESPs."

The report found only 13% of Canadians to be aware of the RESP, and 6% familiar with the CESG. While the federal government pointed to its sincere efforts in providing accessibility that critics had failed to recognize,

(continued on page 9)



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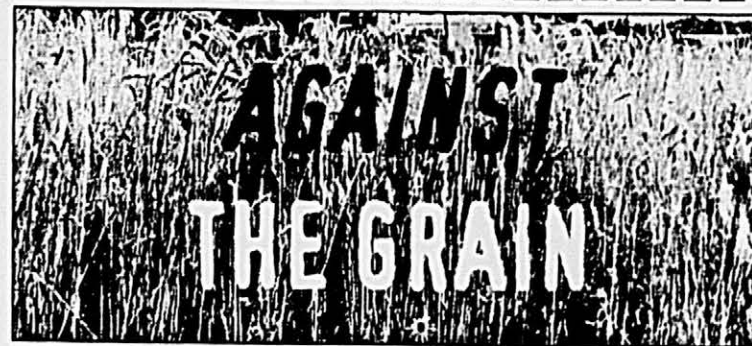
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Global Capitalism: a spreading crisis

BY
JEFF
WEBBER

On Wednesday, January 13, Brazil made the decision to devalue its currency, the real, by 8.3 percent. As the snowball of economic collapse runs around the globe from Asia, to Russia, to Latin America, speculative capital tries desperately to keep ahead, while the indelible print of human cost is left behind.

Thus far we have not witnessed a flight of capital from Brazil on par with Southeast Asia (1997/1998). Still, many economists are not convinced that the Brazilian tactic is likely to succeed. For example, Bruce Steinberg, Merrill Lynch's chief economist, told The Wall Street Journal, "We don't think this is going to work and, in all likelihood, the Brazilian currency is going to be devalued a whole lot more than 8 percent."

If the latter is true, we can expect a great deal more capital flight from Brazil than has so far transpired. Further, even the devaluation that has occurred has made repayment of foreign debt more difficult for Brazil. What is most disconcerting, however, is the fact that this Brazil's economy represents Latin America's flagship. If it goes, the whole boat goes.

This leads me to the thrust of this week's column. It is time we reconsider two preeminent myths of the present neoliberal era: a) that every region, and all inhabitants of the world benefited from the 1980s - 1990s "boom" in global capitalism; and b) that the current measures of austerity, liberalization, unrestrained global capital flow, and full scale deregulation to resolve the "bust", affect all people equally, and are in all cases the "rational" route to choose.

To begin, the 1980s and early 1990s are together an era much esteemed by advocates of neoliberalism; an example of how liberalization translates into economic gain for everyone. The focus of government policy in Canada, like the United States, has been on deficit reduction, and the dismantling of all barriers to free trade and capital flow.

We were told by the World Bank that "the world economy grew at 3 percent a year in the

1980s and 2 percent in the first half of the 1990s," but we weren't reminded that alongside GDP

growth, the world's population exploded, environmental degradation rapidly increased, and inequality of wealth and income soared to unprecedented heights.

Further, the "good years" of the 1980s and early 1990s, were in fact "bad" for most regions of the world, and the majority of this planet's population "enjoyed" increased job insecurity, a decreased portion of the economic pie, and an erosion of living conditions.

Certainly, for Latin America the 1980s was the "lost decade," marked by the deprivations of their debt crisis. The boom also eluded the Middle East and North Africa, where sagging oil prices meant a corresponding drop in the financial and social well being of most of their populations.

Sub-Saharan Africa experienced only the perpetuation of their long-standing exclusion from the wealth of global capitalism. Finally, the countries of Eastern Europe and those of the former Soviet Union, who put their faith in capitalism, were hardly embraced in the warm arms of prosperity. Really, the only beneficiaries of the developing world were a few small East Asian countries, known as the "tigers," since 1997 perhaps the "diseased, caged, if not dead, tigers."

It's not a difficult task to further erode the romanticized vision of the era just now coming to a close. We might simply turn to the experience of ordinary citizens of countries that enjoyed the fruits of the boom. The average East Asian person might have gained a low paying job in - if they were lucky - a modern factory, but more likely in a sweatshop, in exchange for their former lives as under employed seasonal labourers in an unproductive agricultural sector.

In the U.S., another beneficiary of the good years, a similar land-

scape bore out under the brushes of the neoliberal artists. As Robin Hahnel points out in the December 1998 edition of Z Magazine,

"The share of income of the top 5 percent of households in the U.S. climbed from 16.6 percent of all income in 1973 to 21.2 percent in 1994. The share of the richest 20 percent rose from 43.6 percent to 49.1 percent, while the share of the poorest 20 percent fell from 4.2 percent to 3.5 percent."

Worse still, Hahnel points out, that, contrary to assurances of neoliberal dictums, even the absolute poverty of the poorest sectors of society increased.

Having thus dispelled the myth of the boom era, we can only despair at what's happened thus far as the bust rears its head. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is bouncing from disaster area to disaster area, promising loans in exchange for radical austerity measures, and more liberalization. In short, the costs of fixing the present bust are being paid on the backs of those who never garnered the lavish wealth of the boom in the first place. We might take Thailand and Indonesia as examples of what Brazil might become, and what Russia is becoming, all with the "help" of the IMF. Since September 1997, roughly 2,000 people have lost their job each day in Thailand. In Indonesia 20 million people have lost their jobs since September 1997. The people there face riots, and an infant mortality rate which may increase by an estimated 30 percent by year's end (UNICEF).

These people were not the cause of speculative capital exiting East Asia *en masse*, and what they never gained during the "boom" should not be taken from them now.

Currently, speculative capital has not spread its wings in Brazil as quickly as some thought it might, but if - perhaps more accurately, when - it does, expect the subsequent downward spiral of the Latin American economy to fall on the backs of the poor and disempowered. Expect this, but let's not accept it.

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• Driest	• Ecover
• Era	• Kleen Brite
• Gain	• Laboratories
• Ivory Snow	• Life Tree Products
• Oxydol	• Planet
• Tide	• Safeway
• Solo	• ABM Enterprises

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• Mr. Clean	• Life Tree Products
	• Planet
	• Safeway

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The Blow by Blow

SSMU DISCUSSES ADDITIONAL STUDENTS FEES TO FILL IN UNIVERSITY'S GAPS

BY REBECCA
ROSENBLUM

As the government persists in shirking its responsibilities through the continued underfunding of post-secondary education, students are faced with the horror of watching once first-class schools sink under economic burdens.

At McGill, SSMU may take a step in trying to stem this trend.

At Thursday's SSMU meeting, President Duncan Reid brought forth one of these ideas, hoping to create a new McGill Students' Fund. This fund is similar to

the idea that brought the new students centre (currently under construction at the corner of McTavish and Docteur Penfield); asking students to step up and fill

in the financial gaps where the government has cut its funding. The McGill Students' Fund would ask every full-time McGill student to put up an additional \$70 a semester - \$140 a year - in students' fees.

"\$140 is a lot of money," con-

I don't think we'd have any trouble getting this approved. The problem is, at first glance, it just looks like a lot of money. It's only when you examine it that you realize...how desperately it is needed."

The fund would cover several

and possibly a similar fund, though smaller-scale, for the SSMU.

The library aspect of the MSF would take over from the current Library Improvement Fund, which expires this spring. However, the MSF will double that fund's contribution by asking \$20 per student per semester instead of \$10. The extra cash, Reid said, is to "reach beyond just books, to technology."

The bursary program, temporarily named the McGill Access Fund, would aid students who might not otherwise be able to remain enrolled at McGill as a result of financial difficulties. By returning the fee to the students with the toughest financial burden through bursaries, the blow of the new fee will be regulated.

How the Faculty funds would be allocated is yet to be decided. "The faculties know how to get that money to their needs better than the SSMU...that's why I suggested the faculty component," says Reid.

There lie hurdles to overcome before this idea could become a reality. "We have to know this is something that students want before we ... waste our time and our energy," commented Jeffrey Feiner, VP External Affairs. He continues "[but] if students can be shown that it is in their best interest, yes, I think [the fund] will pass."

As to the building improve-

ments for Shatner, the events of last year have shown the building to be "just not a safe and healthy environment in which to have large numbers of students," explained Reid.

The building fund is one of the biggest stumbling blocks in setting up the McGill Students' Fund. Reid said, quite simply, "[the] University Centre is crucial. Our ability to provide safe service will be threatened if the referendum fails." By bundling the relatively insignificant University Centre funds in with so many others (the building monies make up only 17% of the total levy) the SSMU is gambling that the fund will go through, with what Reid calls "serious consequences" if it does not.

Obviously, there are many aspects to be considered before the March referendum period. Feiner has suggested "a survey mechanism ... finding out what people think."

Reid echoed this statement, remarking that "we are going to survey people informally ... to decide whether to go forward." Plans on survey and referendum questions, campaign strategies and even the exact parameters of the fund have yet to be decided, however, and Feiner notes that much more discussion is called for.

"If you've ever seen a project in its infancy, this is it," he said.



cedes Reid. On the other hand, Reid states that "if I and the people who support this ... could talk to every McGill student one-on-one...and make them see the need,

areas: library improvement, safety and health upgrades in Shatner, a need-based bursary program, faculty funds for projects within individual faculties and departments,

Questions Raised About Scholarship Society

BY IRFAN DHALLA

VANCOUVER (CUP) - Six-figure salaries, trips to Cancun and glamorous conventions with paid speeches from Hollywood actors do not fit the description of most non-profit organizations.

But the Golden Key Honor Society, an Atlanta-based non-profit organization that boasts the membership of several Canadian universities, is one exception.

The organization promises scholarships and contacts to high academic achievers to its 271 affiliates, including the University of British Columbia, the University of Toronto, McGill University, McMaster University and the University of Alberta.

The University of British Columbia joined the society last fall partly on the urging of its president, Martha Piper, who sent letters endorsing the organization to about 3,200 of the school's top students.

More than 800 students paid \$80 each - for a total of \$64,000 - to join the society that according to Golden Key literature is associated with the likes of U.S. Presidents Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan, Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel and American Red Cross President Elizabeth Dole.

But questions are being raised about whether the Golden Key Honor Society is as good as it sounds.

The organization's submission to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, obtained by the Ubysey, shows it spent just \$289,461 US on scholarships, or less than five per cent of its total expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997.

And according to the Atlanta Better Business Bureau, Golden Key has refused to provide it with its financial statements.

Valerie Maclean, general man-

ager of the Vancouver Better Business Bureau, says withholding such information is highly unusual for non-profit organizations.

She and the president of UBC's Golden Key chapter, Fahreen Dossa, have also expressed concern over the society's spending practices. Dossa said she had expected scholarships would account for around 60 per cent of the organization's total expenditures.

She also pointed to the high salaries paid to Golden Key directors. The organization spent \$1,822,837 US on salaries and other employee benefits in 1997 and its executive director, James Lewis, received \$247,600 US.

But Golden Key's representative in Vancouver feels that Lewis' salary is not extraordinary.

Kari Sivam, a former UBC student who is now Golden Key's Assistant Director of International Development, said that a recent

study of for-profit as well as non-profit organizations revealed that the average salary of a chief executive officer in the US is \$225,000.

"(Mr. Lewis') salary is reviewed annually by the Board of Directors," said Sivam. The organization's board of directors is made up of university professors who are not paid for serving Golden Key.

While Golden Key spends a lot of money on salaries, it spends even more on conferences and initiation ceremonies. More than half of the organization's budget is spent on these ceremonies.

Golden Key directors were unavailable for comment.

Despite her concerns, however, Dossa says UBC students are not being bilked of their money.

"On the one hand, you can say that UBC students got ripped off," she said. "On the other hand, it

(joining the organization) wasn't forced or highly recommended."

Aside from Piper's letter, some students were encouraged to join the organization by a member of the university's awards and financial aid office who recruited the first few students after being approached by Golden Key.

Carol Gibson, director of the university's awards and financial aid, says the committee charged with looking into whether to join the organization reviewed all information available about Golden Key.

"Certainly the claims that they have made to what the money is used for are up front," she said.

Gibson said material available included an audit by the accounting firm Smith and Hart that clearly shows Golden Key's scholarship figure and conference expenses, but does not give a list of salaries.

More Milk for Your Money?

DEBATE CONTINUES ON APPROVAL OF BGH FOR CANADIAN USE

BY LOUIGI

ADDARIO-BERRY

Last Thursday, The Globe and Mail presented its readers with a rare treat: a positive headline on the front page.

"Ottawa refuses to approve bovine growth hormone," the headline read.

Debate over Canadian approval of Bovine Growth Hormone (BGH) began over eight years ago. Deliberations had continued despite the U.S. approval of BGH in 1993 and a continuous pressure from Monsanto, the manufacturer of BGH. Monsanto has allegedly put pressure directly on scientists for a rapid approval, as well as purported bribery attempts in the form of research grants.

The benefit of the drug is increased milk production in the cows to which it is given. Its list of detriments, however, are somewhat more extensive.

Possible side effects in cows include: udder infection (25% increase), lameness (50% increase), infertility (18% increase) and increase in the presence of other infectious diseases.

The Canadian Veterinary

Medical Association (CVMA) stated that "Many of the cases of lameness involved joints, and dairy producers and vets currently have a limited ability to control this increased risk."

There's also the question of the effects of the drug on humans. In a letter from the City of Toronto's Food Policy Council to the Board of Health at an early stage in the deliberations, the following concerns were raised:

"[S]ynthetic BGH differs by 0.5 to 3.0% from the natural hormone and may therefore induce immunologic or allergic reactions in the gut wall. In addition, intact molecules may be absorbed through the gut of newborn infants or those with impaired protein digestion, with, ... deleterious results (e.g. cystic fibrosis)."

The letter from the food policy council recommended that until "concerns about the drug and the evaluation process have been adequately addressed, the Board of Health opposes the licensing and use of Bovine Growth Hormone."

And though The Globe and Mail suggests that Monsanto's attempt at getting its BGH passed

has failed, the truth may be a little more murky.

The Department of Health commissioned two expert panels: one on the effects of BGH on animals, the other on its effects on humans. Both reports were released Friday. The first panel, consisting of CVMA members, released findings that were primarily negative. Hence, the widespread view that this will force the Ministry of Health to turn down the proposal. The report's wording, however, was not unequivocal. Though it stated that "there were a number of legitimate animal welfare concerns associated with the use of rBST", it also suggested that the number of tests performed was inadequate.

The report stated that "without better data on the frequency and severity of injection site reactions, the Panel could not determine if these represented a significant animal welfare concern."

And should further data present itself between now and June, it could be the edge Monsanto needs to get back into the game.

The second panel, run by the

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, was more flattering in their report. Its conclusion said: "In summary, with one exception, the panel finds no biologically plausible reason for concern about human safety if rBST were to be approved for sale in Canada." It did, however, raise questions about one anomalous piece of data; namely "one test animal developing an antibody response at low dose (0.1 mg/kg/day) after 14 weeks."

Based on this oddity, the panel's recommendation was "on the basis of present knowledge, that the study in question be repeated."

In their conclusions, both panels suggested that further studies should be done. Both left the door open for, if not an approval of BGH, at least a con-



BREATHING A SIGH OF RELIEF

tinuation of the research. There are six months between now and Alan Rock's official announcement; perhaps the Globe's suggestion that "tomorrow's announcement in effect will turn it down," was just a bit premature.

CFS to Hold Internal Inquiry into Allegations of Racism, Sexism

BY JAMIE WOODS

VANCOUVER (CUP) - The Canadian Federation of Students could find itself staring at an expensive phone bill after its leaders participate in a conference call this weekend to discuss a public inquiry into allegations of racism and sexism within the organization.

The federation's members mandated the inquiry last November, in response to what some say was a mishandling of the aftermath of a staff member's acquittal of an assault charge.

Philip Link, then a staff member with the federation's British Columbia component, was acquitted last June in B.C. Provincial Court.

The assault charge stemmed from a November 1997 incident involving Lanna Many Grey Horses, who was the organization's B.C. aboriginal students liaison at the time.

Concerns arose within the organization when, a few months after his acquittal, Link was hired to work in the CFS national office in Ottawa.

At least one member, the student union at the University of Regina, considered leaving the organization because of the move.

It and other student unions said they had some concerns about the decision to hire Link - concerns they say the CFS did not adequately address.

And while the federation is poised to finally address those concerns, some argue the delayed response is in itself cause for criticism.

"I think that the leadership had to be forced to address this issue and I think that's a problem," said Marjorie Brown, graduate issues coordinator for the University of Regina Students' Union.

"If people hadn't kept agitating I don't think it would have been addressed."

Leigh Borden, vice president of the student union at Memorial University, agrees the organization's national executive failed to properly address membership concerns over Link's promotion.

But she adds that she still has "a lot of faith" in the lobby group's

national executive.

"I think that they admitted that they probably kept it a little quieter among the members than they should have, and that they also hadn't given the time or consideration that they should have to the issue," she said.

There are other issues contributing to internal rifts within the organization.

Brown, for one, says she's also uncomfortable with the way national staff handled the election of Many Grey Horses to the position of national aboriginal students' representative last May.

After the election, Many Grey Horses was told she would have to vacate the position because of election irregularities. The re-election didn't take place until last November.

But while the same election irregularities also affected national women's representative Anita Zaenker, she was able to keep her position until November.

CFS national chairwoman Elizabeth Carlyle says Zaenker was allowed to keep her position

only because the national executive wasn't informed about irregularities in her election.

"We received notification in the summer about the aboriginal caucus issue," she said. "We didn't receive a complaint or notice of irregularity (about Zaenker's election) until fairly close to the November meeting."

Not so, says Brown. She says she informed national staff of irregularities in the elections yet they only acted on the election of Many Grey Horses.

"I pointed these things out right away to the people in the national executive," said Brown.

The organization's internal inquiry, currently in its research phase, faces the task of sorting out these and other issues.

The national executive will have the final say over how the investigation, which may take up to two years to complete, is handled.

To begin preparing for the process, Carlyle says the CFS has begun consulting with other groups that have held internal inquiries.

"I'm hoping that we can find a way to deal with conflict," she said.

"There's an understanding within the organization of how to deal with this kind of issue, but when it comes down to the details of it, and the specific situations, it's hard to know what to do when we haven't had much history in dealing with this kind of thing."

For now, Carlyle and other national staff must focus on coming up with guidelines for the inquiry which it will then pass on to its members at the federation's annual general meeting in May.

Carlyle says she hopes the inquiry will begin soon after that.

But the process, she cautions, will be meaningless unless people are willing to see it through.

"I'm not saying that the onus is on people who may have suffered to bring those discussions forward," she said. "But I think (the inquiry) can only be useful if there's a commitment to working with the organization to making it better, not simply a commitment to attack and to criticize."

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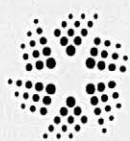
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(continued from page 1)

Carlyle was not the only one questioning the universality of existing initiatives. "People are not aware because the initiatives are meaningless," said parent Gilles Chénier.

In a letter to Human Resources Development Minister Pierre Pettigrew, Chénier addressed the struggles of his two daughters, both recent graduates owing a combined \$79,000. Chénier estimates that by the time the two pay off their loans, and "are in a position to start a normal life," they will be 37 and 41 years old.

The Liberals have made statements to the effect, that they do not attribute the apparent poor awareness of these assistance initiatives to the initiatives' lack of scope. "I'm not sure what that means," said Adam Thompson, Vice-President of Policy for the Young Liberals and a recent Political Science graduate from Queen's. Thompson suggested that low awareness could be attributed to the initiatives having been only months old when the survey was conducted this summer. Thompson did not wish to comment on whether he had taken out any loans in the course of his own studies.

"More and more students are

graduating into poverty," said Libby Davies, NDP spokesperson for Children, Youth, Post-Secondary Education and Social Programs. "For most Canadian students, accessibility is limited by their parents' income and inability to save."

Just under 43% of those surveyed expected the CESC to be effective in encouraging families to save, while that number dropped below 35% for the RESP. Those numbers still further decreased among middle and lower-income Canadians, and along regional lines, with the lowest degree of awareness being present in Ontario and Québec.

"Of course I'm concerned (about rising tuition fees), but that's also why I've saved money over the last eighteen years," said Liberal Party Spokesperson Terry Mercer, whose child plans to enter a post- or secondary program next year. Mercer did however, agree that for many families, accumulating savings on the scale required are impossible. "I am a lucky person," he said.

Those not so lucky, however, are awaiting next month's annual federal budget in the hopes of relief from the skyrocketing cost of post-secondary education, but

few are holding out any real hope.

"This won't be the education budget. We had our kick at the can last year and didn't get much out of it," Carlyle said.

Davies anticipated that this year's budget will focus on health care, with the Liberals having touted last year's Millennium Fund as the heart of an education budget. "Education is going to be somewhere at the bottom of the list," Davies said.

Nonetheless, Davies joins CFS in calling for implementation of nationwide tuition standards, including a fee freeze, and the reinstatement of transfer payments to provinces. CFS is gearing up for its Access 2000 campaign next year, in which it plans to make these policy recommendations the centre of its efforts. The campaign is expected to include a large mobilization of students sometime next winter.

Some parents like Chénier, are even going as far as to make a call for a completely publicly-funded post-secondary education system. When it was deemed of importance that every Canadian have some high school education, Chénier points out, secondary school

education became publicly funded. "Now the world is so complex the new worker needs some type of university or college degree," he said.

But the government takes arguments that savings initiatives such as the RESP only help those who have the money to put away, and that in reality the Millennium Fund will only help a small number of students in stride.

"They're effective," said Thompson, who conceded however, "that there's more to be done. It is an enormous problem and it's not going to be solved overnight."

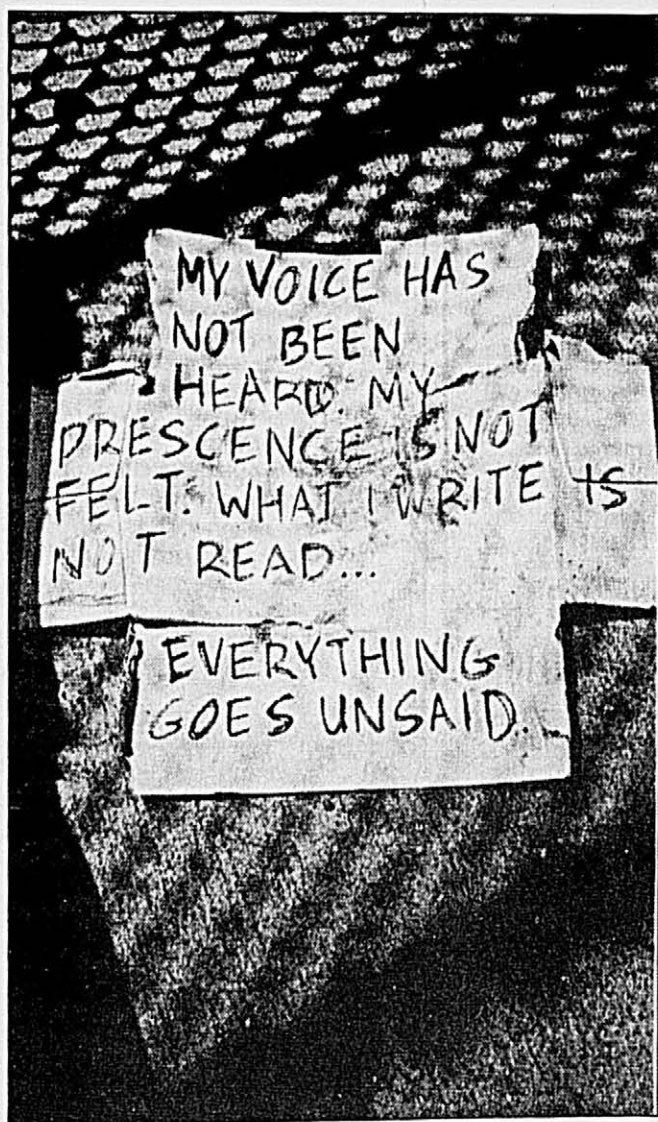
The Millennium Scholarships, introduced in last year's budget, consist of a \$2.5 billion federal fund to be given as grants. Recently, Ontario's government tried laying stake to a claim of about half of that, an amount roughly equal to what they have removed from post-secondary spending, leaving many wondering whether students will ever really see a cent of the fund. Meanwhile, the CESC and RESP initiatives are both long-term investment incentives, which aren't much help to current students or those who plan on entering post-secondary institutions over the next few years.

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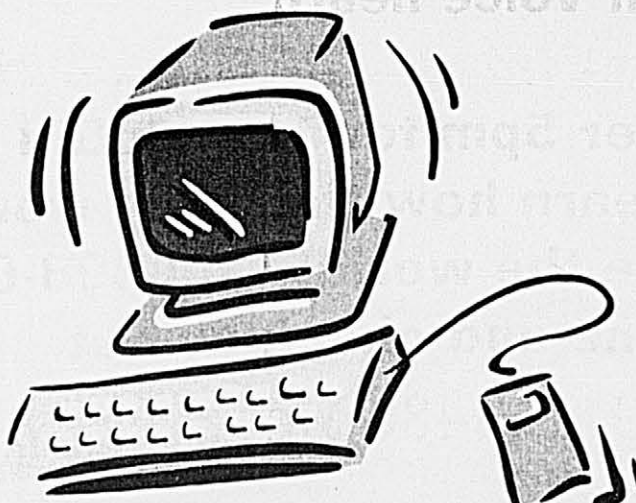
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